

Appl. No. 09/655,847

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) The electric power steering apparatus of claim 7, wherein

the biasing member biases said worm shaft deflectable toward said worm wheel, in a deflective direction of said worm shaft.

2. (Original) The electric power steering apparatus of claim 1, wherein

said worm shaft is deflectable in a side of said worm shaft, interlocked with an output shaft of said electric motor and an interlocking member interlocking said worm shaft and said output shaft is provided therebetween.

3. (Original) The electric power steering apparatus of claim 1, wherein

said worm shaft is supported in a gear housing having a tapped hole, and said biasing member includes a screw body tightly fastened in said tapped hole and a spring body interposed between said screw body and said worm shaft.

4. (Original) The electric power steering apparatus of claim 1, wherein

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said worm shaft is supported in a gear housing having a tapped hole, and said biasing member includes a screw body which is tightly fastened in said tapped hole and which is in contact with said worm shaft or a bearing fitted to said worm shaft.

5. (Withdrawn) An electric power steering apparatus, comprising:

an electric motor for steering assistance;

a worm shaft on which a worm is disposed;

a steering shaft on which a worm wheel is disposed and to which a rotary motion of said electric motor is transmitted through said worm shaft; and

a biasing member biasing said worm wheel deflectable toward said worm shaft, in a deflective direction of said worm wheel.

6. (Withdrawn) The electric power steering apparatus of claim 5, wherein

said worm wheel is fitted to said steering shaft, and said biasing member includes an elastic ring fitted to a fit portion of said worm wheel to said steering shaft.

7. (Currently Amended) An electric power steering apparatus, comprising:

an electric motor for steering assistance;

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a worm shaft on which a worm is disposed;
a steering shaft, configured to engage a steering wheel, on which a worm wheel is disposed and to which a rotary motion of said electric motor is transmitted through said worm shaft;
a biasing member biasing, via a bearing, said worm shaft toward said worm wheel;
a concave member accepting said bearing; and
a housing for housing said bearing and said concave member, wherein the biasing member is movably acceptable only toward the concave member.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) An electric power steering apparatus, comprising:

an electric motor for steering assistance;
a worm shaft on which a worm is disposed;
a steering shaft, configured to engage a steering wheel, on which a worm wheel is disposed and to which a rotary motion of said electric motor is transmitted through said worm shaft;
a biasing member biasing, via a bearing, said worm shaft toward said worm wheel, wherein a housing that directly holds the bearing is the same housing that holds the biasing member; and

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a concave member accepting the bearing, wherein the biasing member is movably acceptable only toward the concave member.

10. (Previously Presented) The electric power steering apparatus of claim 7, wherein the bearing may be deflected into the concave member.

11. (Previously Presented) The electric power steering apparatus of claim 7, wherein the steering wheel is directly connected to the steering shaft.

12. (Previously Presented) An electric power steering apparatus, comprising:

an electric motor for steering assistance;

a worm shaft on which a worm is disposed;

a worm wheel fixedly held on a steering shaft connected to a steering wheel, wherein the rotary motion of the electric motor is transmitted through the worm shaft to the steering shaft;

a biasing member biasing the worm shaft toward the worm wheel to reduce or eliminate backlash, wherein the biasing member is movably acceptable only toward the concave member.

13. (Canceled).

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14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a space is established between the concave member and the biasing member, wherein when the biasing member biases the worm toward the worm wheel, the biasing member moves within the space to be accepted in the concave member.